

## HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT DANIEL L. SESKER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am here today to speak about a brave and heroic American who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom. SGT Daniel L. Sesker died on April 6, 2006 near Bayji, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sergeant Sesker was assigned to C Troop, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division, Army National Guard based out of Le Mars, IA. I extend my deepest sympathies to his mother and stepfather, Mysty and Marvin Stumbo, his father, Dennis Sesker, his brother and sister, and his fiancée Angie.

Daniel Sesker was born in Boone, IA, and graduated from Ogden High School in 2001, where he participated in wrestling. He studied criminal law at Iowa Central Community College before enlisting in the Army National Guard. He served as part of Kosovo Force in Operation Joint Garden and had served a previous tour in Iraq. Between his two tours, Daniel worked as a counselor at the Woodward Academy and as a part-time police officer in Gowrie, IA. Sergeant Sesker received several decorations for his exemplary service, including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and Combat Action Badge.

Sergeant Sesker is remembered as having a great sense of humor. His love for his family and friends as well as his love for life will be missed by all who knew him. He was the kind of person who could light up a room with his personality and positive attitude. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. We all owe Sergeant Sesker our eternal gratitude for his service and sacrifice.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, in May, we commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, honoring the history, culture and traditions of Asians and Pacific Americans and recognizing their unique contributions to the United States.

First proposed as a 1-week event in 1977, the celebration was expanded to a full month in 1990. May was chosen because of its unique significance in the history of Asian Americans. May 7, 1843, marked the first recorded immigration of Japanese to the United States. May 10, 1869, marked the completion of the transcontinental railroad—a feat that would not have happened when it did without the labor of Chinese immigrants.

The Asian and Pacific American population has a rich history in this country, especially in the Pacific Northwest. In my State, records show the arrival of Asian immigrants as early as the 1860s, while some scholars even speculate that centuries before, Chinese explorers sailed down the Alaskan

coast to what is now Washington State. Today, there are over 14 million Asians and Pacific Americans living in the United States, representing 5 percent of the population. In Washington, they make up 7 percent of the citizenry.

Over the past century and a half, Asian and Pacific American communities have contributed significantly to the cultural vibrancy of Washington State. Individuals within Washington's Asian and Pacific American communities have also worked to stand up for justice and make our country a better place. In 1944, Gordon Hirabayashi, a Japanese American student at the University of Washington in Seattle, took a stand against the unfair treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II when he refused to obey discriminatory curfew orders. In taking his case to the U.S. Supreme Court, he left a lasting reminder of the importance of standing up for civil rights.

Last month, Washington State celebrated the retirement of one of its most influential Asian American leaders. Bob Santos, affectionately known to many as "Uncle Bob," has for many years, tirelessly dedicated himself to social justice for all. As a founder and executive director of Inter\*Im Community Development Association, Bob helped revitalize the International District of Seattle, build the local economy, and secure affordable housing for many of our most vulnerable residents. Under President Clinton, Uncle Bob served nobly and boldly as the Regional Director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. His selflessness, passion and dedication embody the giving spirit that makes our Asian Pacific American community so strong.

America is a land of immigrants, and our history demonstrates that we are stronger because of our diversity. Over the past century and a half, Asian and Pacific American communities have contributed significantly to the cultural vibrancy of Washington State. However, we can only live up to the promise of our diversity if we recognize the mistakes of our past and give all groups a voice in public discourse. During World War II, 227 Japanese Americans from Bainbridge Island became the first of more than 120,000 people to be placed in internment camps. They departed from Bainbridge Island's Eagledale Ferry Dock which, just last month, became the site of a moving tribute to all affected by this dark period. The name of this memorial is Nidoto Nai Yoni, meaning "let it not happen again."

During this year's Asian Pacific American Heritage month, we celebrate a history rich with culture and tradition. In our Asian and Pacific American communities, we must preserve the lessons of the past and recognize the great promise of the future.

## HURRICANE RITA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on April 27, 2006, I spoke on the Senate floor regarding the needs of Texans and evacuees living in Texas following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I used a number of visual aids to show the impact of these storms on the State of Texas. I would like to note in the RECORD that The Beaumont Enterprise and Harris County Judge Robert Eckels provided these images to illustrate the current state of Texas.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE CAPITOL CHALLENGE

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the annual 3-mile Capitol Challenge race, we reflect upon the history of this event and how it has brought together members of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the Federal Government with members of the print and electronic media through exercise and fellowship.

Since the first race in 1981, which was held in East Potomac Park, annual proceeds and registration fees have benefited the Special Olympics.

During the ensuing years, the race has evolved to a new location and expanded to accommodate and increasing number of participants. In 2002, the race moved from the fall to the spring while also moving from East Potomac Park to Anacostia Park.

Current races bring out more than 650-700 participants each year, including 30-35 Members of Congress.

It has been estimated that, since the first race in 1981, over 15,000 runners have competed, and of those 15,000 runners, nearly 800 Members of Congress have participated.

Furthermore, each year a celebrity runner has joined the race which brings enthusiasm to the morning's event while running and helping to present the following awards.

1st Place Overall  
1st Senator  
1st Representative  
1st Cabinet Department or Independent Agency Head  
1st Sub-Cabinet  
1st Judge  
1st Print Journalist  
1st Electronic Journalist  
Top Three Captains (or equivalent)  
\*Age 60-69  
Top Three Captains (or equivalent)  
\*Age 70 and over  
Male and Female Divisions for Above Awards  
Top Two Senate Teams  
Top Two House Teams  
Top Two Judicial Teams  
Top Two Executive Teams  
Top Two Print Teams  
Top Two Print Media Teams  
Top Two Electronic Media Teams

To commemorate the 25th running of the Capitol Challenge race I am including for the RECORD the dates of each of the previous races.